

Goodrich, Conner and Beeman Creek Park: an update.

As many of you know, Erie County has allocated \$3,000,000 for the ditching, draining and complete reconstruction of a section of Goodrich Road. The Highway, Engineering and Town Board are committed to carrying through on the flood reduction commitment that they made during the public meeting and have hired the consulting and design firm of GPI to conduct a "flood reduction" plan for the town. Town of Clarence officials met with members of the Goodrich Road task force from the design firm of Clark, Patterson, Lee (CPL) as well as officials of Erie County on June 17th to monitor progress on the project. Although the project will run in several phases, CPL is designing a complete ditching/drainage plan for the entire project prior to the start of Phase 1 construction. The main goal of the ditching plan is to get as much of the water as possible that is currently sitting in ditches alongside Goodrich Road back into Tonawanda Creek. This will be achieved by designing some of the new ditches so that the flow is north into Tonawanda Creek. The ditching plan will also add pipe that will act as a cross channel and carry water across Goodrich road so that it doesn't pool on the eastern side.

Town of Clarence officials also met with Erie County Commissioners on the subject of Connor Road in an attempt to work out a solution that is acceptable to both parties. The great unknown at this time is the scope and cost of the problem. Everybody has an estimate, but all are just guesses. In an attempt to find a starting point, Erie County agreed to hire an outside design firm to get an estimate on that total cost of both the ditching and reconstruction of Connor Road. We will be meeting with Erie County again on June 25th, and should have a good idea of the costs involved in the fix of Connor Road at that time.

Lastly, the Town is in the final phase of finishing the boundaries of Beeman Creek Park. While the Town of Clarence purchased the Park (400 acres +/-) from Erie County in 2011 for \$1, residents have been unable to walk the entire park due to a boundary dispute. Effective August 1st, 2014 Clarence taxpayers will be able to hike the entire 2 1/2 mile loop of Beeman Creek without obstruction. A new gate and nature trail will delineate the boundaries and allow easy access into and out of the nature preserve. The park is forever wild, and no ball fields or basketball courts will be built on or in this green space.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 741-8930, email dhartzell@clarence.ny.us or stop by the Supervisors office in Town Hall. My door is always open!